sharing basis of 45:45:10, between the Central Government, State Government and the voluntary agency respectively. In the case of Union Territory Administrations the expenditure is shared between the Central Government and the voluntary agency in the ratio of 90:10.

Soviet know-how for India Railways

480. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to acquire Soviet know-how and expert consultations for the modernisation of Indian Railways; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) A Railway Delegation has visited Soviet Union recently to identify the possible areas of cooperation between India and Soviet Union, in the railway sector. The delegation has identified certain areas for cooperation in respect of imports, consultancy, technology transfer, collaboration in Research & Development, training and collaboration in undertaking railway projects in third countries.

Booking agents appointed by Western Railway

481. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Western Railway has appointed booking agents; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The agents have been appointed in terms of Authorisation of Rail Travellers' Service Agents Rules, 1985 framed in compliance with a directive of the Supreme Court. These agents function at important cities for purchasing/cancelling tickets, obtaining refunds and securing reservations on behalf of intending rail travellers from the Railways Reservation Offices.

Grounding of flight at Patna

482. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that aircraft used for flight No. IC 489 on October 28, 1987 had to be grounded at Patna;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the defect responsible for the said grounding of the aircraft could not be detected and corrected at Delhi, though the flight had been delayed therefor more than an hour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) B-737 aircraft, operating flight No. IC-489 on 28th October, 1987 was grounded at Patna due to nose wheel snag. Man and spares arrived from Delhi and the aircraft resumed the flight with a delay of 5 hrs. 35 mts. at Patna.

(c) The defect occurred at Patna only and as such could not have been attended to at Delhi. The delay in flight ex-Delhi was due to adverse weather at Patna.

Helicopter Service in U.P.

483. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the names of places in Uttar Pradesh which are covered or are proposed to be covered by helicopter services; and the date by which these services are proposed to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): At present Pawan-Hans neither operates nor contemplates operating helicopter services in Uttar Pradesh.